

Friends of Westwind Inc. Invite You to Join Us for the 28th Anniversary

**WESTWIND BARN**

**HOEDOWN!**

27210 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills  
Saturday September 10  
5-10 pm

Western BBQ Dinner  
Equine Exhibitions  
Live Music  
Petting Zoo  
Pony Rides  
Fantastic Silent Auction

Free to the Public  
Dinner Tickets  
Adults \$35  
Seniors \$25  
Children (6-12) \$25  
Children under 6 \$5

To Reserve Tickets  
Call  
(650) 941-6113

All Proceeds Benefit the Maintenance and Preservation of Westwind Barn and the 4-H Handicapped Riding Program

Historical Society  
"LAH FROM ABOVE"

High-quality large-format 1947-79 aerial views of Los Altos Hills and vicinity will be the topic of the LAH Historical Society's September 25 meeting, 3-5 pm at Town Hall.



Speaker Bob Hatfield grew up here and inherited a special view of the area from his father — pilot, photographer, and builder Adrian Hatfield, founder of Hatfield Aerial surveys. Hatfield Aerial photographs cover original rancho sites, and highway developments such as Interstate 280. Orchard parcels and early community developments are covered in the collection, as well as historical wetlands and forest preserves.

A discussion and refreshment period will follow the presentation.

Westwind Summer Horse Camp



Pictured above: Westwind Summer Horse Camp sponsored by Westwind 4-H Riding for the Handicapped. Twelve students (priority to Hills residents) ages 8 - 12 enjoyed the one week horse camp (August 1-5). Instructor: Jenny Whitworth; Assistants: members of the Pacific Ridge Pony Club (based at Westwind Barn).

NEWS!  
BULLIS CHARTER SCHOOL & LASD POSTPONE TRIAL

Bullis Charter School and LASD agree to postpone trial date. After participating in two full days of confidential, court supervised settlement discussions, LASD (Los Altos School District) and the Bullis Charter School (BCS) have agreed to a 2 month postponement of the Proposition 39 related Superior Court trial which was scheduled to start August 15th. Both sides felt that a compromise on site related issues might be possible and agreed to the postponement. The agreement calls for the parties to participate in two additional settlement conferences between now and the new trial date of October 17, 2005.

Ken Moore, BCS Board Chairman, released the following statement: "While there remain important differences in our positions, our legal team leader, Martin Neiman, and I considered the district's willingness to continue to participate in court-supervised mediation a meaningful step. We will work diligently to see if these discussions can be productive and result in a positive outcome that will benefit our school and the community."

ERRATUM

The June 2005 Town Newsletter failed to acknowledge that the Supporters of Westwind Community Barn paid for the Leopards, Etc. program, as part of the Earth Day Celebration at the Westwind Barn.

Halloween Horse Show

Pacific Ridge Pony Club will ost its 12th Annual Halloween Horse Show at Westwind Barn on Saturday, October 29th from 9:00 AM. Pony Clubbers and others will compete in various equestrian sports, including equitation, hunter hack, trail classes and jumpers. This Halloween tradition features our costume class, occurring at approximately noon, where horse and rider dress up and compete to see who is the most original, scariest and funniest. There is also the fun-filled hound and horse class where dogs compete over fences with their owners. The festivities include games on horses and an arena decorated for Halloween. Please come and enjoy Halloween in the Hills. Or better yet, think about becoming a member of Pony Club, an international organization dedicated to educating and instructing youth in the equestrian arts. (Access to your own mount is required for Pony Club).



DERBY DAY - A BIG WINNER!

Supporters of Westwind Community Barn held its second annual Kentucky Derby Day at Maple Leaf Farm on May 7. The event, held at the private barn of Alex and Cathy Mendez in Los Altos Hills, was a great success. The 340 elegantly attired guests, with the ladies in beautiful hats, enjoyed an impressive jumping demonstration by the Mendez's horses ridden by trainers from Maple Leaf Farm and other local barns. A traditional Derby lunch and an exciting live auction followed. The Derby was shown on a large screen TV inside the barn. Proceeds benefit Westwind Community Barn, which is owned by the Town of Los Altos Hills.

Countess Margit Besseneyey donated Westwind Barn, which dates from the 1940s, and its 15 acres to the Town of Los Altos Hills in 1976. The Barn is in a spectacularly beautiful setting on Altamont Road next to the 55 acre Byrne Preserve, donated by Dr. Albert Byrne as open space.

Supporters of Westwind Community Barn is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public foundation created in 2003. Supporters recently donated eight new exterior doors to the Barn and paid for the Leopards, Etc. program, part of the Earth Day Celebration at the Barn.

If you would like to make a contribution or get involved with this effort, please call 650-941-9503.



Pictured at the Derby Day are L. to R. above: Mendez's Maple Leaf Farm Statue, Event Co-chairs Colette Cranston & Elaine Nelson, Kathy & Peter Evans, and Hostess Kathy Mendez presenting a bouquet to a winner!

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Permit No. 306

REMINDER  
Leash Ordinance

Los Altos Hills Municipal code requires that pet owners maintain control of their animals at all times.

If you see a dog without a leash and in the company of its owner, you may call the Sheriff's Department at (408) 299-3233. The responding deputy has discretion to issue a citation to the dog owner for leash violation.



BRINGING BACK PUBLIC EDUCATION TO THE HILLS

The start of another school year is a good time to update the Town on progress in the effort to bring back Public Education to Los Altos Hills. Although this marks the third school year since the sad closure of Bullis-Purissima Elementary by the LASD (Los Altos School District), there are many promising developments to report. The City Council is dedicated to making this year one of positive initiatives in this area, all focused on the goal of restoring a valuable community asset: a neighborhood public school.

First, a bit of history. A little over two and one-half years ago, despite the passage of a substantial parcel tax increase just a few weeks prior, the LASD began a process which ultimately resulted in the closure of the last public school in our community. Initially, the goal of the District was to consolidate students to save administrative costs; generate extra income by renting the site to a private school and to save the substantial capital costs of upgrading the campus. In the end, these cost savings were never realized. In retrospect, it is fair to say that everyone, including the original architects of this plan regret this ill-conceived decision to close Bullis. However, community leaders are still left with the task of dealing with the consequences. On the City Council, we have consistently reached the conclusion that doing nothing is not an acceptable alternative.

At this point, the issue is not if there is going to be Charter School, but where it will eventually find a home. The school has a great principal, has completed an extremely successful first year and has raised over \$5 million dollars toward a permanent campus. Even the new LASD Superintendent, Tim Justis freely admits, "The Bullis Charter School is here to stay." For a number of reasons, the Town Council thinks this home should be within the boundaries of Los Altos Hills:

- The Town has seen all four of its public schools closed and neither the LASD or PAUSD (school districts) have any plans to reopen a school in the Hills
- Los Altos Hills is the only city on the Peninsula without its own school
- A neighborhood school helps build community
- The Charter School is the only way to bring back public education to the Hills within a reasonable time frame

The City Council thinks that a local public school can be a valuable community asset to Los Altos Hills. That is why we have played an important supporting role in the Bullis Charter School effort, just as in other significant community initiatives. Each of us has taken the time to study the issue. Ultimately, we all came to the same conclusion: this issue is critically important to our Town and is a responsibility that we cannot walk away from. Here are some of the reasons why:

- General Plan calls for the Council to be involved with land use, roads and public education as issues of primary importance for the citizens of the Hills
- The City Council is the only local political body responsive enough to the needs of our community to take on this issue.
- The Charter School has achieved critical mass and offers a huge return to the community on any time and money invested.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that a neighborhood school is an important factor affecting property values. Recently, the following figures were presented to the City Council outlining the relative rise in home values along the Peninsula. They suggest a strong correlation between property values and the presence of a neighborhood school:

Statistics on 2002-04 change in median property values (since Bullis closure):			
Palo Alto: +23.8%	Portola Valley: +19.3%		
Atherton: +30.4%	Woodside: +11.2%		
Los Altos: +16.5%	Los Altos Hills: -0.3%		

\* Figures are derived from Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, as reported in Palo Alto Weekly, Spring 2005 "Real Estate Special" section. They represent the compounded annual change in real estate prices from 2002 to 2004.

The Council recognizes that many Town residents are still learning about this issue. We have done our best to educate and solicit input (including holding educational forums and surveying the residents twice over the last two years). However, some facts bear repeating:

- A Charter School is a public school that functions under the auspices of the Santa Clara County School Board.
- It is open to all residents of California, receives public money to finance its operations and cannot charge tuition.
- Charter school is about choice, no one can be required to attend the Charter, you must apply for admission.
- If you are happy with your present school, then you may continue to attend that school.
- Presently the School is chartered under LASD and residents who live in the LASD area have enrollment priority.
- Bullis Charter School is working on several ways to resolve this issue so that PAUSD residents may enjoy equal enrollment preferences.
- The educational experience offered by the Bullis Charter School is extremely popular with students and parents, with more than 100 students on a waiting list, despite expanded enrollment.

Over the next few months, the Council hopes that permanent arrangements can be made for the Bullis Charter School. We fully expect that a home can be found in the Hills for them to grow and prosper, as they become an important part of our community fabric. If this can be accomplished, everyone living in Town will benefit from higher property values, from a greater sense of community and from additional educational choices for our children. That is why we think Town government should continue to be involved in a supportive role. We look forward to hearing from you about this important issue.

— Mayor and City Council

## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

#### City Engineer Transition Support Completed

As of June 30, 2005, Acting City Engineer Dave Ross completed his regular, abbreviated office hours to provide for a seamless handoff of projects and certain general operations matters to Public Works Director Henry Louie. Dave and his firm Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. will continue to provide engineering services and project coordination for the Town's pilot Utilities Undergrounding Project, review and give input in finalizing the sewer agreement between the Town and City of Los Altos and provide other consulting engineering services as deemed necessary by Henry Louie.

Many thanks to Dave for the great professional services over this last year and a half!

#### Status of Public Works Maintenance Supervisor Recruitment

The Administrative Services Department has finalized the job flyers and advertisements for the Town's recruitment for the Public Works Maintenance Supervisor position. Ads will appear in the San Jose Mercury News, American Public Works Association publications, Jobs Available and on the Town's website. Flyers will be mailed to all cities and public works agencies in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Alameda Counties. Final filing date is Friday, August 12. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for August 30 or August 31.

#### Independent Auditors on Site

The four-member team of independent auditors from Vavrinck, Trine, Day & Company were on site the week of July 5 through July 8 to conduct their initial field work in preparation for their audit of the financial statements for the Town for the year ended June 30, 2005. As you know the development of the financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's Administrative Services Department and the auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on these statements based on their audit. It is anticipated that all the auditors' field and office work will be completed by mid-October, which should make the audit available for the Finance and Investment Committee and City Council to review in November.

—Maureen Cassingham, City Manager

### Recycle Electronics

Recycling of electronics is becoming a "huge" problem-especially in Silicon Valley.

There is a new company very convenient for Los Altos Hills residents to enable "green" recycling of electronics gizmos (TV, Computer, cell phone, printer, Fax, VCR) located behind Fry's in Palo Alto. Their website is <http://www.greencitizen.com>



City Manager Maureen Cassingham

### HOME REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM STILL AVAILABLE

Since 1976, the Town of Los Altos Hills has made funding available for home rehabilitation loans for Los Altos Hills residents through its Housing Conservation Program. Funded through the Federal Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Conservation Program provides low-and-to income-eligible homeowners - loans for home repairs that correct housing code violations, alleviate overcrowding, minimize potential fire hazards, and improve health, safety, accessibility and home security conditions. Examples of eligible work include electrical and plumbing repairs, new flooring, heating and weatherization improvements, kitchen and bathroom remodels, painting, roof repair, structural reinforcement and repair of termite damage.

Program eligibility is based on federal income limits by household size. In order to qualify, a household's annual income must not exceed 80% of the current median income in Santa Clara County, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For example, a family of four must have an annual income no greater than \$84,900 and a two-person household may not exceed an annual income of \$67,900.

Loans up to \$100,000 are available to qualified homeowners; interest rates range from zero to three percent. Loan repayment may be amortized or deferred for up to fifteen years, and all loans are secured by a deed of trust.

The Housing Conservation Program offers a practical solution to lower income residents, particularly seniors and others on fixed incomes, faced with a list of costly home repairs. The program helps residents stay in their homes when they might otherwise be forced to sell, and contributes to the general safety and attractiveness of Los Altos Hills.

The Town's Housing Conservation Program is administered by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing. For more information or to obtain an application, please call Tracy Cunningham at (408) 441-4323.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
Friday evening, January 27, 2006  
Los Altos Hills 50th Anniversary Dinner Party  
at the Los Altos Country Club.  
Invites to be sent to all residents soon!

For Council Agenda and Minutes,  
See our Website:  
[www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Volume XXVIII No. 3

September 2005

### READ YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?....PLEASE

You know how much you spend on gasoline, how your choice of cars and how much you drive affects it. You probably spend nearly the same amount on electricity, with little or no idea where it goes and how choices you make affect it...and since homes don't come with an EPA fuel economy rating, buying a new house can be a real guessing game when it comes to energy consumption. The newly formed Environmental Initiatives Committee (EIC) is hoping to change that.

Building upon first hand experience with the newly constructed Town Hall, the EIC is working to find appropriate ways to encourage residents and contractors to consider energy consumption when building or remodeling.

The first place to start learning is by looking a little deeper at your utility bill. In addition to listing the bottom line amount that you owe, every bill lists the amount of kilowatt-hours consumed over the course of the month. A kilowatt-hour is the amount of energy that one 100 watt light bulb will use in ten hours (100 watts x 10 hours = 1000 watt-hours). This is the standard unit of energy consumption. Among homes belonging to EIC members, the committee found a wide range of electric consumption. Usage varied from about 2.5 to 7 kWh per square foot per year. The homes in the upper end of that range pay PG&E's highest rate for half or more of their electricity, currently around 28-cents/kwhatt hour (it's going up next year). Sort of like paying \$6 per gallon of gas! If you are curious to see how you are doing, add up the "kWh Billed" (not the kWh per day) in 12 months of PG&E bills (or just multiply the kWh Billed in your May bill by 12), then divide by your home's square footage. The EIC would love to hear your result-we are very interested in finding out what is really "typical" in Los Altos Hills, and we will keep names confidential.

If we learned anything from the town's experience with the town hall, it's that if the right questions are asked during design, significant reductions can be realized in a building's energy appetite for a very reasonable cost. New construction is where the Town can have the most impact on our future energy demand. Under consideration by the committee is an ordinance to require (a) the site-specific simulation of a proposed new home's energy use, and (b) demonstration of proposed homes above a certain size ability to achieve grid-supplied energy consumption 25% below California's basic residential building requirements - through any combination of design and energy efficiency measures or on-site renewable power generation (typically solar). The simulation would inform the owner, ahead of time, what the home's energy consumption will be given its specific location, lot, design and proposed equipment. This 25% reduction is the same target as a new EnergyStar Home program that PG&E will roll out next year. The EIC plans to hold a study session with the Town Council on this proposal on September 15th. We welcome your input. To reach the committee, send an email to Karen Jost ([kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov](mailto:kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov)) or to the Chair, Peter Evans ([PeterEvans@NewPowerTech.com](mailto:PeterEvans@NewPowerTech.com)).



### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM AND ELECTRIC CAR PROVIDE FREE HOUSE ELECTRICITY AND FREE MILES

Four years ago, at the height of the California energy crisis, we installed a solar voltaic system with a capacity of 3600 watts. This consisted of 36 Siemens 100 watt panels that were mounted on 3 dual axis trackers, which keep the panels pointed at the sun. The panels were installed on the Northeast corner of the property in the cow pasture.

By the middle of the second year of operation, it became obvious that our surplus to PGE was going to be more than \$200 for which we would not get paid. The obvious solution was to buy one of the Toyota Rav4 EV's that were available at that time (the end of 2002).

I was somewhat expecting this car to more than use up our surplus, and fully expected to owe PGE something for the third year. But after the first full year's use of the RAV4 EV, we still had a zero bill with PGE.

After rebates and tax credits the solar system cost about \$26,000 and the car about \$29,000. I would have bought both without the rebates and taxes credits and never intend to go back to a gasoline car. Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to buy a production electric vehicle, but I am hoping that by the time our car wears out, that some other car company will be selling one again, so that we will continue to have the option of living and driving oil and greenhouse gas free.

—Mark Jensen, Resident



### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



#### Bullis Charter School Play

The BCS lower grades play is scheduled for December 7-10, 2005. Please Check the BCS website for times and location: [www.bullischarterschool.com](http://www.bullischarterschool.com)



## THE TOWN NEWSLETTER

### HOW TO PROTECT YOUR MAIL FROM THIEVES

Every day, the U.S. Postal Service safely and efficiently delivers millions of checks, credit cards and other valuable items. Unfortunately, such items of value are also attractive to thieves. Here's what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Never send cash or coins in the mail. Use checks or money orders.

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items. If you won't be home when the items are expected, ask a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.

- Have your local post office hold your mail while you're on vacation, or absent from your home for a long period of time.

- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

- If you change your address, immediately notify your post office and anyone with whom you do business via mail.

- Always deposit your mail in a mail slot at your local post office, or hand it to your letter carrier.

Locked mailboxes can be purchased at your local hardware store or online from Postal Products at [www.postalproducts.com](http://www.postalproducts.com). Make sure that the mailbox you choose has the U.S.P.S. approved sticker on it. They feature a lockable compartment for incoming mail and a flap to protect contents against weather. Choose a box that has a large enough slot to accommodate your normal daily mail volume. Remember, the U.S.P.S. neither opens a locked box nor accepts a key for this purpose.

If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster at 100 First Street, Los Altos (800) 275-8777. You'll be asked to file a formal complaint using PS Form 1016, Mail Theft and Vandalism Complaint. By analyzing information collected from the form, postal inspectors may determine whether your problem is isolated or part of a larger mail theft problem in your neighborhood — and it may help inspectors locate and apprehend the thieves.



### LAH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

*July 7, 2005- London Calling: "...cell and land line service is down."*

When the London bombing occurred, early news reported that the phones and cell phones became overloaded with traffic. In the 2001 9/11 tragedy, the cell phone facilities in New York were actually part of the loss. In the 2004 tsunami in South East Asia, phones were non-existent or limited in many areas. In the 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego County, many cell installations and phone lines were damaged or destroyed. Last year's hurricane disaster in Florida and other states caused communication facility failures.

In these cases, amateur or "ham" radio operators jumped in to support communication needs for public and services agencies - even from a remote island in South East Asia. A civic official in a remote Northern California community quipped to the committee chair recently: "The ham radio operators? Hey, they 'saved our bacon' when we had a failure of cell and land communications during a major storm."

In Los Altos Hills, the Town's Emergency Communications Committee - a volunteer team appointed by the Town Council of licensed amateur radio operators - works with the Town's staff and council to support communication needs as part of the Town's Emergency Preparation plan.

The committee, chaired by Dru Anderson, KG6LAD, welcomes interest by residents in the amateur radio function for community emergency communications support. She can be contacted at [drundersn@aol.com](mailto:drundersn@aol.com). Many of the committee members - 14 regular members and 4 associates - also are trained CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) members. All regular members have DSW (Disaster Service Worker) cards, required in the event of emergency response.

The Committee operates and trains on the Town's repeater, W6LAH, and meets weekly on net, and monthly for both training workshops and business meetings at either the Town's Emergency Operation Center (Heritage House) or Town Hall facilities.

#### Town Newsletter - Statement of Purpose

To communicate current issues, services, and activities in Los Altos Hills to the residents of the Town and to facilitate, encourage and improve interaction between the residents and Town government. The 2005 Newsletter will be published quarterly in the months of March, June, September, and December. Deadline for the next issue is October 31, 2005.

Internet Address: [www.losaltoshills.ca.gov](http://www.losaltoshills.ca.gov)

#### About Our Publication

The Town Newsletter is published with assistance from our Town Volunteer Committees.

Editor: Dorothy Duffy Price

Associate Editors: Barbara Lamparter, Linda Seidel, Patty Woolsey

#### Los Altos Hills City Council

Breene Kerr, Mayor • Dean Worshtansky, Mayor Pro Tem

Craig Jones • Jean Mordo • Mike O'Malley



LOS ALTOS HILLS